

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

March 19, 1971

SECRET/NODIS
CEDAR

MEMORANDUM FOR ~~DICK KENNEDY~~

FROM: Jon Howe

SUBJECT: Research on 1957 Israeli Withdrawal

A leak revealing White House interest in research on the Israeli withdrawal of 1957 could prove very troublesome in our relations with the Israelis. I am not sure that it would be particularly productive since we are quite capable, in 1971, of frightening the Israelis who in this decade must contend with a Soviet as well as Arab threat.

It should be noted, however, that the results of research of this type would not necessarily strengthen arguments for pressures against the Israelis. For example, the Aide Memoire on U.S. maritime rights in the Straits of Tiran, given to the Israelis in 1957 by Secretary Dulles reportedly contained marginal notes which indicated some U.S. backing of Israeli rights not mentioned in the public document. This paper was produced by the Israelis in late May 1967 and caused some embarrassment to the Johnson administration which had been unaware of it. In any case, research into this area would be interpreted by Israeli supporters as an indication that we were about to bring strong pressure to bear against Israel.

RECOMMENDATION:

That HAK not request research of this type.

Attachment

Memo for HAK from H. Saunders
18 Mar, Subj: A Word from Mr. Helms

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*HAK - I believe John is going to
in a good way - what are we going to
do about it? - we are going to
be relevant now?
how can we prevent
a leak that we
are searching the
files on this subject?*

*Healthy
We might & do it
on an ~~inter~~
classified basis.
Can we call it
secret?*

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March 27, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR HAL SAUNDERS

FROM:

Al Haig 

SUBJECT:

Research on 1957 Israeli Withdrawal

Henry discussed this memorandum with me and expressed the concern that research into this area could be interpreted by Israeli supporters as an indication that we were about to bring strong pressure to bear against Israel. For this reason Henry thought we ought to be able to do it on a classified basis, and said to go ahead and call Ted Eliot about it.

SECRET/NODIS/CEDAR